

**LIFE HISTORY NOTES ON *BRACCA ROTUNDATA* (BUTLER)  
(LEPIDOPTERA: GEOMETRIDAE) AND *OXYCOPHINA THEORINA*  
(MEYRICK) (LEPIDOPTERA: THYRIDIDAE)**

MURDOCH DE BAAR

10 Hereford Street, Corinda, Qld 4075

(Email: [debaar@powerup.com.au](mailto:debaar@powerup.com.au))

**Abstract**

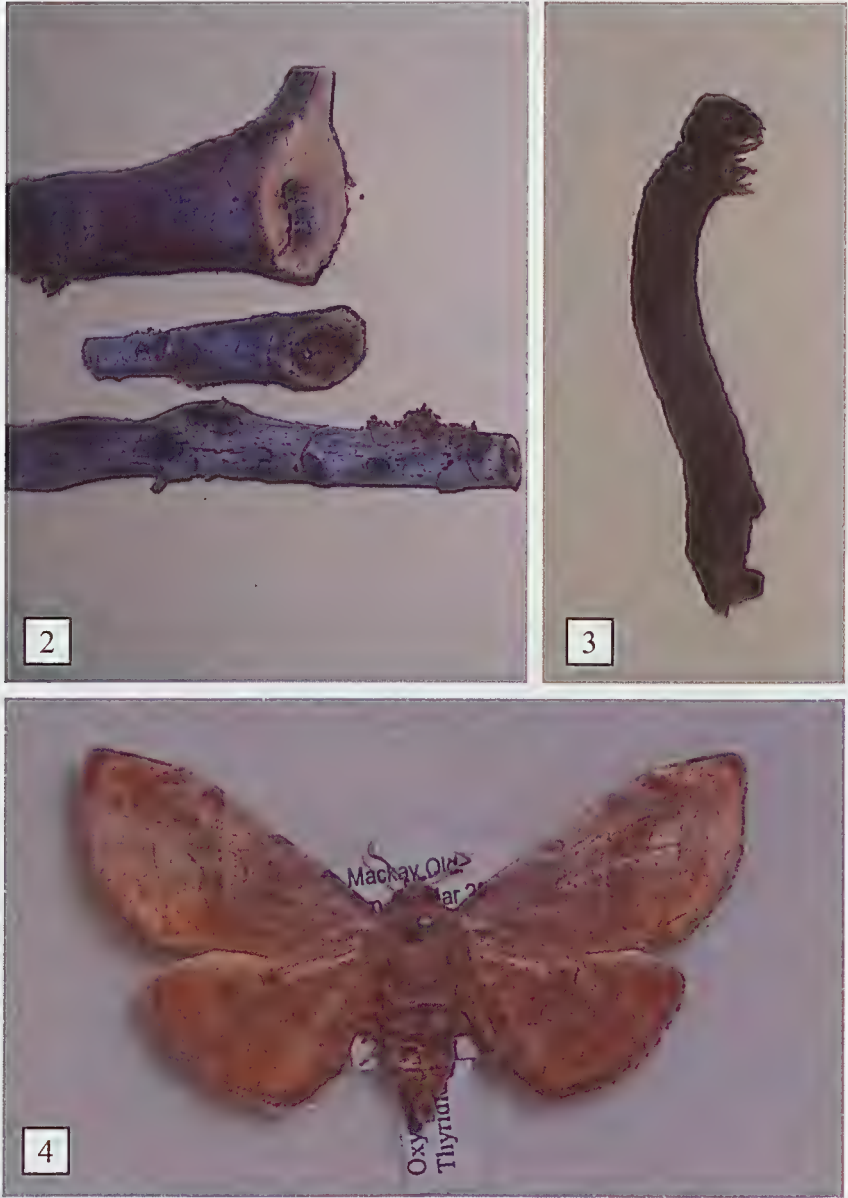
Life history notes are presented and larvae illustrated for *Bracca rotundata* (Butler) and *Oxycophina theorina* (Meyrick) from northern Queensland. Recorded food plants are *Austrobaileya scandens* C.T. White (Austrobaileyaceae) and *Macaranga tanarius* (L.) J. Muell. (Euphorbiaceae) respectively.

**Introduction**

Currently, nothing is known of the early stages or food plant of the geometrid moth *Bracca* (= *Tigridoptera*) *rotundata* (Butler) (Zborowski and Edwards 2007, Common 1990), or of the habits or biology of *Oxycophina theorina* (Meyrick), the largest of the Australian thyridid moths (Zborowski and Edwards 2007, Common 1990, E.D. Edwards pers. comm.). The following notes and illustrations are based on material from northern Queensland.



Fig. 1. *Bracca rotundata* larva.



**Figs 2-4.** *Oxycofphina theorina*. (2) *Macaranga tanarius* stems showing stem damage and borer holes; (3) larva; (4) adult.

## Life history notes

### GEOMETRIDAE

#### *Bracca rotundata* (Butler)

(Fig. 1)

*Material examined.* QUEENSLAND: 2 specimens, Paluma, pupated 25.xii.1983, emerged 11.i.1984, M. De Baar and M. Hockey.

*Comments.* Two larvae were collected on 16 December 1983 at Paluma, feeding on *Austrobaileya scandens* C.T. White (Austrobaileyaceae), a vine in rainforest. The larvae were black with white and orange markings (Fig. 1). *Austrobaileya scandens* is a primitive vine, up to 15 m in height and endemic to northern Queensland rainforests; it is the only species included in the family Austrobaileyaceae.

### THYRIDIDAE

#### *Oxycophina theorina* (Meyrick)

(Figs 2-4)

*Material examined.* QUEENSLAND: 1 ♂, Mackay, from several larvae collected 2.ii.2001, emerged from pupa 26.iii.2001, B. Delaney.

*Comments.* During the summer of 2000-01, Mackay City Council obtained potted stock of *Macaranga tanarius* (L.) J. Muell. (Euphorbiaceae) from Normanton in NW Queensland for street plantings. Following planting, several trees about 2 m high showed stem damage. In February 2001, Brian Delaney sent several of these stems to me and, on examination, they showed swellings and borer holes (see Fig. 2). Larvae (Fig. 3) were feeding inside the stems. The stems were kept in the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries insectary in Brisbane and a male (Fig. 4) emerged on 26 March 2001. It is not known if the trees became infested in Mackay or in Normanton.

## Acknowledgements

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## References

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ZBOROWSKI, P. and EDWARDS, E.D. 2007. *A guide to Australian moths*. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood; 214 pp.